

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 SSM-03 IO-13 OMB-01 EB-08 FEAE-00
TRSE-00 COME-00 AF-10 EUR-12 /111 W
-----112381 301359Z /44

R 301136Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4317
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 7746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IR IZ KU SA
SUBJ: SOME IRANIAN THOUGHTS ON PERSIAN GULF, PLO,
ARAB LEAGUE AND IRAQ

REF BEIRUT 1399 (NOTAL), KUWAIT 4661 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN CONTRAST TO FLURRY OF LOCAL PRESS STORIES
DETAILING REAL AND SUPPOSED ATTACKS ON IRAN'S POLICY
FROM PLO AND OTHER SOURCES RECENTLY, OUR MFA CONTACTS
CALMLY DOWNPLAY POSSIBILITIES OF ANY SUBSTANTIAL THREAT
TO IRAN'S INTERESTS IN PERSIAN GULF. BUT THEY ARE
WATCHING EVENTS CLOSELY. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN VIEW OF SEVERAL ARTICLES APPEARING OVER PAST
WEEK IN IRANIAN PRESS, WE HAVE TAKEN SOUNDINGS AT
MFA ON VARIOUS TOPICS INVOLVING PERSIAN GULF, IRAQ
AND OTHER SUBJECTS. FIRST PRESS ARTICLE, AUGUST 23,
NOTED AN ATTACK ON IRANIAN POLICY IN BEIRUT'S "AL
SAWRA," CHARACTERIZED HERE AS A PLO ORGAN. PAPER
WAS REPORTEDLY COMMENTING ON ONE OF PRIME MINISTER

AMOUZEGAR'S STATEMENTS (IN CONNECTION WITH FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT) WHICH REPEATED STANDARD IRANIAN LINE IN FAVOR OF COOPERATION AMONG LITTORAL STATES TO PROTECT PERSIAN GULF FROM OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. "AL SAWRA" REPORTEDLY STATED PURPOSE BEHIND THIS IRANIAN IDEA IS PROTECTING CONTINUED FLOW OF OIL TO THE FACTORIES OF THE IMPERIALISTS, AND ENTAILS CRUSHING THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS INSIDE IRAN AND IN THE "ARABIAN GULF" AREA. IRAN'S ASSISTANCE TO SULTAN QABUS IN OMAN WAS CITED, AND ARTICLE CONCLUDED THAT IRANIAN PROPOSAL FOR A COLLECTIVE SECURITY ARRANGEMENT IN PERSIAN GULF IS SUSPICIOUSLY TAILORED TO SERVE IMPERIALIST INTERESTS IN THE REGION.

3. EXACT REASONS FOR APPARENTLY GRATUITOUS ATTACK ON IRAN AT THIS TIME ARE UNKNOWN TO US OR TO IRANIAN MFA OFFICIALS. LATTER SPECULATE THAT IT IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH EFFORTS TO WELD TOGETHER MAINLINE PLO AND REJECTIONISTS. BELIEF IS EXPRESSED BY THESE MFA OFFICIAL THAT LEFT WING MOVEMENTS IN ARAB WORLD ARE IN PROCESS OF COORDINATING THEIR EFFORTS, AND IRAN HAS BEEN TARGETED ALONG WITH OTHER FRIENDS OF THE US. THEY ALSO CITE AN ARTICLE IN CAIRO'S AL AHRAH OF AUGUST 26 WHICH REPORTEDLY WE ON SAME THEME, TO WIT THAT IRANIAN SECURITY EFFORTS IN THE GULF ARE RESULT OF DESIRE TO SAFEGUARD US INTERESTS

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(SINCE US IS ACTING IN AREA THROUGH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA). ARTICLE APPARENTLY ALSO ALLEGES IRAN HAS PROMISED US TWENTYBANINE Y MILLION BARRELS OF OIL OVER NEXT TWENTY YEARS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TEHRAN 7746

4. MORE GENERALLY, MFA HAS NOTED ARAB LLEAGUE MEETING REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED FOR NEXT MONTH TO DISCUSS RED SEA DEFENSE AND OTHER MATTERS. OFFICIALS SUPPOSE PERSIAN GULF MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED BUT TEND TO DISCOUNT VARIOUS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT SAUDI ARABIA EITHER THROUGH ARAB LEAGUE OR INDEPENDENTLY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FORGING SOME SORT OF DEFENSIVE ARAB GROUP TO EXCLUSION OF IRAN. THEY DOUBT MUCH WILL BE DONE EVEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE RED SEA, BUT ARE KEEPING THE SITUATION UNDER OBSERVATION.

5. ANOTHER NEWSPAPER ARTICLE AUGUST 29 CITES BAGHDAD NEWSPAPER, ALSO NAMED AL SAWRA AND IDENTIFIED AS OFFICIAL ORGAN OF IRAQI BA'ATH PARTY, TO EFFECT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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IRAQI DELEGATION IS ON ITS WAY TO A PRELIMINARY MEETING IN RIYADH IN WHICH PERSIAN GULF STATES ARE TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING AN OBSERVATORY STATION AND DISCUSS RELATED NAVIGATIONAL MATTERS WITHOUT INCLUDING IRAN. ARTICLE NOTES RECURRING USE OF TERM "ARAB GULF".

6. BY CONTRAST, APPROPRIATE MFA DEPARTMENT HEAD TELLS US IRAN IS STILL CONSIDERING WHETHER OR NOT TO REACT TO RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF "ARAB GULF OFFICE" IN IRAQ (BAGHDAD REFTEL). HE NOTES IRAQ ALREADY HAS AN ARAB GULF INSTITUTE IN BASRA, AND IRAN WANTS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY POSSIBLE REACTION OF IRAQ TO ANY PROTEST IRAN MIGHT LODGE. BY SAME TOKEN, DEPARTMENT HEAD GIVES AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT NEW CHIEF OF IRAQI OFFICE, HASSAN ALI, MIGHT BE ON HIS WAY UP. OFFICIAL RECALLS MEETING ALI AS

DEPUTY HEAD OF IRAQI DELEGATION HERE AND WAS IMPRESSED BY ALI'S PHYSICAL FORCEFULNESS AND GOOD HEALTH, WHICH CONTRASTS WITH IZZAT IBRAHIM'S ILLNESS AND THE GENERALLY AGING, AILING STATE OF SOM MANY TOP LEADERS IN IRAQ. SINCE IRAQ CONTINUES ITS EFFORTS TO OCNCLUDE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN IN EVERY CONCEIVABLE AREA--THE LAST, A WEEK AGO, WAS ONE FOR EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION--MFA OFFICIALS ARE NOT SURE WHETHER TO INCLUDE IRAQ AMONG CURRENT TROUBLEMAKERS ON PERSIAN FULF ISSUED.

7. FINALLY, MFA HAS HEARD REPORT OF KUWAITI CROWN PRINCE'S POSSIBLE GULF TOUR (KUWAIT REFTTEL) BUT HAS NOTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE IT, OR VARIETY OF RUMORS AS TO ITS PURPOSE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BEIRUT 1399, 77 KUWAIT 4661
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1596158
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME IRANIAN THOUGHTS ON PERSIAN GULF, PLO, ARAB LEAGUE AND IRAQ
TAGS: PGOV, IR, IZ, KU, SA, ZP, PLO, ARAB LEAGUE
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009